

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 /077 W

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O 121315Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5103

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS MAPUTO 1159

LE.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE MEDIA COVERAGE ON SOUTHERN RHODESIA

1. OCTOBER 10 AND 11 COVERAGE OF RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS WAS LIGHT AND BASED ENTIRELY ON INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. STATEMENT ISSUED BY JOSHUA NKOMO AND ROBERT MUGABE IN DAR ON OCTOBER 9 RE FORMATION OF A "COMMON FRONT" ELICITED NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. ACCORDING TO NOTICIAS, NKOMO AND MUGABE INSISTED THAT THE SMITH REGIME SHOULD NOT BE REPRESENTED AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE EXCEPT AS A PART OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION, AND THAT IN ORDER CREATE ATMOSPHERE CONDUCTIVE FOR PROGRESS AT CONFERENCE, THEY WERE DEMANDING THAT

--ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN RHODESIA BE RELEASED:

---ALL NATIONALIST INSURGENTS BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO RHODESIA; AND

---RESTRICTION ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN RHODESIA BE DROPPED.

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2. NOTICIAS OCTOBER 12 REPRINTED EXCERPTS OF IAN SMITH'S INTERVIEW WITH A VISITING NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT. SMITH WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT EUROPEANS "MUST CONTROL" THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND LAW AND ORDER IN ORDER TO "MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF OUR WHITE POPULATION DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PHASE." ALTHOUGH SMITH REPORTEDLY CRITIZED THE AFRICANS FOR RENEGING ON THEIR PART OF THE AGREEMENT WORKED OUT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, NOTICIAS NOTED THAT SMITH SAID: " WE ARE GOING TO THE CONFERENCE DETERMINED TO DEFEND OUT PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS."

3. OCTOBER 12 EDITION OF NOTICIAS ALSO REPORTED THAT ZIPA HAD DESTROYED A LARGE BRIDGE OVER THE INYANA RIVER 180 KILOMETERS FROM SALISBURG. NOTICIAS CLAIMED INYANGA RIVER BRIDGE WAS OF STRATEGICAL IMPORTANCE TO RHODESIAN TROOPS OPERATING IN THE AREA.
DE PREE

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